

August 1987

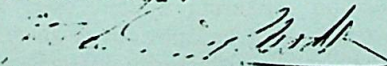
The

ACE

FAREWELL

It has been just over 2 years, since I accepted the ACE's most distinguished position of publisher. Although I have enjoyed it and still do, the time has come to turn the reigns over to someone else to ensure the continuance of new ideas and energy. Although I am not clear at this time as to the identity of the new publisher, BILL MARTIN will take over the publishing duties during the interim period. I wish the ACE and its new publisher all the best.

Sincerely,



Keith J. Thibodeaux

Spy Centre

Continuing from June Spy Centre, here we go with the third installment of Richard Phenix's excellent article. Our thanks to 73 Magazine for permission to reprint it in our column.

MESSAGES FROM STATION CHARLIE

by Richard Phenix

(73 Magazine, Jan. 1982)

THE CIPHER SECTION

The W/T link was not the only one which broke on occasion. It happened sometimes that a message came in which could not be deciphered. We hated to ask outstations to expose themselves to DFing by repeating transmissions, but when one had come in five by nine that wouldn't break, we could be sure that the trouble was in the ciphering process. That sort of trouble belonged to my department, the Cipher Section. As the Signalmasters felt about their operators, so I felt about the cipher crew. I couldn't ever say enough in praise for the more than a hundred service men and women who worked the Cipher Room. Most were members of a British women's auxiliary -a famous one dating back to the Boer War. Mostly English or Scots, many had good personal reasons for dedication to the job: husbands, family members, and friends who were out there somewhere or who had already died in combat or in air raids. A few of them had memorized the deciphering table for the one-time-pad cipher system -this consisted of 676 three-letter combinations! Given a priority message hot from the W/T room, and the correct copy of the one-time page (page after page of random 5-letter groups) on which the agent had enciphered his message, there was usually someone on duty who could write the first over the second and come up with the clear text without looking at the table. (Portions of the clear text sometimes were also in code and had to be decoded using another table; nobody ever even tried to memorize that one, which yielded thousands of meanings from its four-letter code-group combinations from AAAA through ABAB through ZYZY to ZZZZ!) We also had specialists who made possible the untangling of messages which came in not only in a language other than English but also via the horribly complicated double-transposition ciphering system used by Scandinavian agents. Based on a memorized key, it had obvious security advantages over code books and tables, but it worked satisfactorily only when, well, only when it worked satisfactorily! Unlike the one-time pad system where each letter was, in effect, independently enciphered by the substitution of another letter, in this system all the letters remained themselves but were by prearrangement

twice transposed in their relationships with each other -jumbled about, in other words. In the worst case, one single misplaced or misnumbered letter in the key could make a stew of an entire message. Visualize, if you can, Swan sitting in a leaky saeter hut with stub of pencil and soggy paper, half frozen, remembering her own poem -was it imorgen or imorgon? (one being Norwegian and the other Swedish for "tomorrow") -remembering whether it was messa ge 17 or 18 (which determined which lines of the poem to use) constructing her squares, numbering the columns (the first a is 1, the second is 2; the third, 3; no b or c, so d is 4, etc.), writing directions to a safe house for a new agent soon to be parachuted in (GA FEMTE GATE TIL VENSTRE OG DEN SJETTE TIL HOIRE...), removing the letters vertically from the first square in column-numbered order and writing them horizontally in the second square, removing them again, vertically...and so on, all the time listening for the always-to-be-feared sound of approaching German DFing units. Swan did her work correctly for the most part. I couldn't have! Could you? Add to that all transmission problems, QRM, QRN, etc., and it was a wonder that we managed to untangle (without computers) nearly all the "undecipherables." And that included one which took a score of us weeks to break, and earned us a commendation even though it turned out to say the war-time equivalent of something like "Having a wonderful time, wish you were here." After all, it could have been important! It is a temptation to write on and on about the little corner of the war which was Station Charlie and the messages we sent and received, but by now you should have the picture of intensely dedicated W/T operators, cipher personnel, transmitter technicians, controllers, perforators, teleprinter operators, registry clerks, and maintenance technicians, all of us so awfully tenuously linked to the lonely souls to do our work literally could mean the difference between their eventual return to England -and living- and capture, possible torture, and death.

to be continued

The 4th and final segment will follow in two months. Meanwhile, let's have some logs for the September issue. I know we can count on David, but how about some US logs, too? My deadline is Aug. 15. 73 & gud spydxing! Lani

Loggings

AUGUST

Contributions to the loggings column are gratefully accepted by the deadline of the 15th of each month. Loggings are preferred on logging forms which are available for a SASE. Contributions should be sent to: P.O.B. 2571, Shawnee Mission, KS. 66201. Contributions can also be left on the ACE TBBS at (913) 677-1288. Your editor: Kirk Baxter.

NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

Unidentified: 1627.3, 7/5, 0420-0513, SIO = 222. Rock mx. No annmnts hrd. (RICHOLSON,VA)

RNI (see other loggings below): 1619.7 7/25, 0137-0300, SIO = 534. Simulcast on this frequency and 6240. Transmission was slightly off the 1620 announced. (RICHOLSON,VA)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORT WAVE

Hunter Society: 7370, 7/18, 0610-0637. DJ Captain Bottle Cap and Pull Tab Hunter with heavy rock mx and Monty Python skits, and songs by the pirates themselves. Gave a phone number for callers, and I checked with directory assistance and it turned out to be a pay phone. I called and talked to one of the pirates, who indicated they were operating 100 watts into a dipole and had been on for about 2 weeks. (SACHS, IL)

Power Radio (?): 7413.9-7413.3, 7/5, 0015-0022 lost, SIO = 212. Rock mx followed by what may have been an annmnt using a Donald Duck like voice that made the words unintelligible. Then a male anncr talked of righteousness, preaching the wool being pulled over our eyes, androids, and life's trials and tribulations. Partial identification possibly Power Radio. Lost around 0022 on 7413.9; then around 0032 rock mx detected on 7413.3 with possible annmnt. Lost again at 0038. PSE QSL. (RICHOLSON,VA) [same time/freq as WBRI, see below]

Radio NewYork International: 1619.7 // 6240, 7/27, 0045-0200 +, SIO = 343 // 444. First broadcast of a new station with rock mx. Mostly current, but some classic rock. OM ID about every 20 minutes. "RNI - Radio New York International", "The new sound from outside US territorial waters". Also claimed to be "America's first commerical

auxiliary station" and invited written inquiries on their "reasonable ad rates". Professionally produced taped jingles. Annncd 103.1 FM, but that not audible in Cleveland. Very solid signal on both channels. QSLs for SASE to RNI, 496 LaGuardia Place, Suite 451, NY, NY 10012. (ZELLER,OH) 6240, 7/25, 0029-0300, SIO = 534. Simulcast on this and 1619.7 with Randy and Andy Steel. Reported this as a test transmission from the Good Ship Sarah, "America's first and only offshore station". Said they are commercial and looking for sponsors. Slickly produced show mostly of rock music and talk by the anncrs, some marijuana talk. Also mentioned 103 FM, but nothing heard on that freq. Clever station IDs. Judging by their comments, this transmission started around 2300 on 7/24, and was to continue until 0500 on 7/25. (RICHOLSON,VA)[see BBS exerts for further info]

Radio North Coast Int'l: 7448.5, 7/19, 0055-0123*, SIO = 323. Music interspersed with frequent IDs by Cpt. Willy and QSL info using the Hilo address. Also said he was broadcasting right about 3.4 mhz, 7.4 mhz and 15 mhz, but not heard in the other bands. Cpt. Willy annncd that this was their "monthly" music special. (RICHOLSON,VA)

Tangerine Radio: 7415.15 drift to 7415.25, 6/29, 0154-0208*, SIO = 434. Caught the pgm in progress. Songs and talk devoted to the Vietnam War. Included Arlo Guthrie songs. 0156 ID: "You're listening to Tangerine Radio." 0208 s/off annncd by Raunchy Rick. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7415.2, 6/29, 0207-0208. "Boy Blue" by ELO hrd. OM anncr was Raunchy Rick. Off @ 0208. (BAXTER,KS)

WBRI: 7413, 7/5, 0026-0059*, SIO = 323-211 (varied). New wave, punk, rockabilly & reggae mx interspersed with IDs and skits including a spoof on Star Trek. Mentioned Washington DC maildrop with most of the IDs. Nicely done semi-pro sound on all, but op had dead air several times between pgm elements as if he were doing it all with a pair of tape decks. (SMITH,NY)

Zeppelin Radio World Wide: 7415, 7/12, 0121-0134, SIO = 323. Heavy static combined with frequent breaks in xmsn made this one hard to copy. Signal strength was good at times with what sounded like xmtr problems. Martial mx with some 40's period popular mx. IDs by male anncr in raspy voice. Hilo addr. (PATTERSON,NC) 7415.2, 7/12, 0119-0130*, SIO = 333. Unusual bcst contents - for the first time since I've been hearing them they were very heavy into Nazi mx and jargon. QSLs offered via P. O. Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720 for 3 22 cent stamps. (RICHOLSON,VA)

Unidentified: 7413, 7/5, 0049-0059. (Log via Phil Cokwart, Hammond, LA) Stn played heavy metal rock mx until 0051 then had a comic skit called "Star Drek" at 0056. There was background square dance-type mx with a partial zip code of 2001- hrd. Hvy QRN prevented ID or addr copy. PSE QSL. [Probably was WBRI - see above.] (TWIGG,MN)

This concludes the loggings we received during the course of the last month via the regular mail. However, during the last week of July, a radio event occurred which I'm sure will be in the news for some time. A group of people obtained an old fishing boat, and under the Honduran flag, proceeded to play rock and roll music to the East Coast, just outside the US territorial boundary. This worked well for several days, until the Coast Guard (with FCC agents) visited the ship in international waters, and arrested the individuals aboard. This late breaking story is documented from the following messages from the ACE BBS. [If you have access to a computer and modem, the ACE BBS is the best way to obtain up-to-date loggings, and information about our hobby, plus stay in contact with other ACE members around the country.]

Msg#: 5697 *FREE RADIO*
07/23/87 23:21:49
From: JIM GARRITY
To: ALL
Subj: NEWSFLASH/LOGGING

Logged "Radio New York International" (RNI) on 7/23/87, 2300-0358 UTC, on 6240 and 1619.7 kHz. (Announced as 1620 kHz.) SIO for both signals, which were simulcasted, was 454. Also announced were 103.1 mHz, and 190 kHz, but these were not heard at this QTH. This was a test transmission, and it was announced that they would be testing for the next week or so, until their regular broadcast schedule starts around August 1. This station is operating in International Waters, in the Atlantic, off the Long Island, N.Y. coast. (Underground sources verify this story 100%- I don't doubt their claims at all) A QSL address was given, and they WANT REPORTS. The address is: R.N.I., 496 LaGuardia Place, Suite 451, New York, NY, 10012. An SASE is all that is required for a card. I would suggest that all listeners try to log this one while they can, since it is unknown just how the authorities will react to this station, even though they sound confident that they are safe from the long arm of the law. Best 73's Jim G.

Msg#: 5711 *FREE RADIO*
07/25/87 13:35:05
From: SCOTT MCCLELLAN
To: ALL
Subj: RNI

Heard Radio New York International (also ID'ed as "RNI") 7-25 between 0210 and 0430 + on 1619.7 and 6240.0 kHz. The MW freq was solid S9, for the most part, and SW was between S6 and S8. Lots of thunderstorm QRN but generally quite readable. Good audio on both freqs; 1619.7 a bit better. Anc'd to be a test xmsn, claimed to be offshore, etc. Quite good, technically, but I hope they become a bit more creative when the tests are over. Scott

Msg#: 5715 *FREE RADIO*
07/27/87 02:45:36
From: ARTHUR PYM
To: JIM GARRITY
Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 5697 (NEWSFLASH/LOGGING)

An item on WCBS Newsradio 880 early this morning confirms the announcement at signoff this midnight on RNI that they had been illegally boarded by the FCC and cited for unlicensed broadcasting. It is unclear to me whether the boarding took place at sea or in port. WCBS say that the 'general manager' of RNI denies the validity of the citation because they are broadcasting on frequencies that 'do not cause interference' to other stations.

Msg#: 5716 *FREE RADIO*
07/27/87 02:50:56
From: ARTHUR PYM
To: SCOTT MCCLELLAN
Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 5711 (RNI)

From all indications this REALLY is an offshore commercial operation, with the accent more on commercial than on free-form programming. My sources indicate that they intend to start a regular schedule if the long arm of the law can be kept at bay -- and they believe it can.

Msg#: 5728 *FREE RADIO*
07/27/87 17:48:25
From: KEN MADIGAN
To: ALL
Subj: PIRATE

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT DONT KNOW IT RADIO NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL IS SUPPOSED TO BE BACK ON THE AIR TONIGHT ON THE FOLLOWING FREQS 1620 AM 190 LF 6240 OR 6230 HF PLUS A 101.3 FM BUT NOT SURE ON THE FM FREQ
THERE WAS A STORY IN TODAYS PAPER ABOUT THEM BEING RAIDED BY THE FCC ON SATURDAY NIGHT THEY MENTIONED THIS LAST NIGHT AS THEY WERE SIGNING OFF AT 2400 LOCAL TIME THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE ON AT 7:00 TONIGHT BUT I THINK THAT IS EST TIME HERE IN ROCH NY IHAD A VERY CLEAR SIGNAL ON MY CAR RADIO ON 1620 --- TBBS v2.0 * Origin: ACE BBS - KANSAS CITY
(280/304) SEEN-BY: 129/17 280/304

Msg#: 5729 *FREE RADIO*
07/27/87 23:39:34
From: ANDREW OBRIEN
To: ALL
Subj: RADIO NY INTERNATIONAL

I guess that you have all heard the press coverage about this station, I caught the tonight at 1208 (local) signing of their 1620 freq and announcing a move to 530 KHZ (CJFT is a local on that freq so I'm sure I wont here them there). The DJ announced that they were looking for those experienced in engineering to contact them and also those familiar with diesel engines. RNI has been heard by several DX Newsline members from Florida to Western New York. DX Newsline member

Mike Pollack in Syracuse, NY, contacted RNI's Randy Steele. He confirmed that they were indeed aboard a ship. Reception reports from the DX Newsline were played over the phone to Randy, he was quite excited to to here all the reports. Contact with Randy was established again Monday evening, and all the media attention is keeping him very busy. More to come.....

Msg#: 5730 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 00:24:34
From: AL QUAGLIERI
To: KEN MADIGAN
Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 5728 (PIRATE)

Good sigs here in Albany, NY for Radio New York International on 1620, not so hot on 6240, didn't try longwave. They are operating off of Long Island on the ship Sarah, six miles offshore. They said they've been visited by all the major TV networks and the Village Voice, and from the sound of things they love the publicity. Signoff at 0408 UTC on 7-28 UTC, and announcement that they would be testing in five minutes on 530 kHz. Hour and a half of monitoring and nothing but the Canadian. Mailing address for QSL's and job info (no kidding!) is 496 LaGuardia Place, Suite 451, NYC, NY 10012. I have sent a tape to Glenn Hauser, which may show up on a future World of Radio. Thanks to both Richard D'Angelo-PA (who had 'em on both freqs OK) and Bill Westenhaver-Montreal (ditto) for the phone tips. Whoever RNI is, one thing is for certain....they're using some POWER! --- TBBS v2.0 *
Origin: ACE BBS - KANSAS CITY (280/304) SEEN-BY: 129/17 280/304

Msg#: 5734 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 12:57:41
From: SYSOP

To: ALL
Subj: RADIO NEW YORK INT'L

Last night (7/28 gmt) from 0148-0300+, Radio New York International was audible with a fair signal on both 1619.7 kcs and 6240. At times the 1620 frequency was clearer, however, both signals suffered from QRM. Music audio was much better than the DJs voice. The format of the show seemed to be primarily oldies from the 50's and 60's, and the production quality was professional. I've been listening to the network news broadcasts to see if anyone is going to pick up on this news story, but I haven't seen any mentions of it yet. Has anyone heard a phone number given over the air for this station? --- TBBS v2.0 *
Origin: ACE BBS - KANSAS CITY (280/304) SEEN-BY: 129/17 280/304

Msg#: 5737 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 15:03:18
From: BOB BROWN
To: ALL
Subj: NRI SEIZED!

AP 07/28 12:11 EDT

LONG BEACH, N.Y. (AP) -- Federal officers arrested three men and seized an unlicensed shipboard rock 'n' roll radio station Tuesday after it broadcast for four days over the objections of the Federal Communications Commission. The 95-foot Coast Guard cutter Cape Horn pulled alongside the ship and officials boarded it early Tuesday, according to Petty Officer Barbara Voulgaris. She said the rusty Japanese fishing vessel, which had been anchored in the Atlantic ocean outside the three-mile limit, was being towed to Staten Island and those arrested would be turned over to the U.S. Marshal's office. Randi Steele of Queens, the station's manager, said he was told by a reporter shortly after 10 a.m. that "our crew is in tight handcuffs." He identified those arrested as Alan Weiner, station worker Ivan Rothstein of Brooklyn and R.J. Smith, a Village Voice newspaper reporter who boarded the vessel last night. "As far as I'm concerned this entire action is illegal," he said. Steele said the ship was not subject to FCC jurisdiction because it was flying the Honduran flag and was four miles from Long Beach on the south shore of Long Island, outside the three-mile territorial limit of the United States. The Coast Guard spokeswoman said the United States "got a statement of no objection from Honduras" to board the ship. Steele has said the station was inspired by the bad poor state of New York rock 'n' roll radio and the FCC's heavyhanded attitude toward those who want to get

licenses. Radio Newyork International, or RNI, had broadcasted five hours each day except Saturday since last Thursday. The signal was detected as far away as Michigan, according to the FCC. FCC attorneys Monday were "vigorously pursuing" their options to close down the operation, said Sally Mott Lawrence, an FCC spokeswoman in Washington. "I think the fear is that if we don't act swiftly, it sends a message that it's OK," she said Monday. "This falls fully in our authority to ensure only licensed broadcasters are on the air and that licensed broadcasters are not interfered with." On Saturday, the station was cited for operating without a license and was told it tentatively had been found in violation of FCC regulations. "Stronger than ever. RNI, we're the wet one," boasted one brief promotion for the station played on the air. In one late-night station promotion, a deep voice said, "Unbelievable, unstoppable, unboardable, unsinkable, unbeatable. RNI, it's unavoidable." Then, disc jockey Ivan Jeffreys told his radio audience that his station offers alternative rock 'n' roll, including new wave soul and rhythm and blues. On Monday, the FCC attorneys were trying to determine which laws the station might be breaking and choosing a legal course "that would eventually result in their ceasing to broadcast without a license," Ms. Lawrence said. If found in violation of FCC laws requiring stations to be licensed, those who are broadcasting illegally could be fined up to \$100,000 per violation, she said. !

Msg#: 5742 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 15:55:54
From: LOU JOSEPHS
To: BOB BROWN (Rcvd)
Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 5737 (NRI SEIZED!)

PER UPI MAINE NEWSFLOW 7-28 15:39 "THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO SEIZE THE VESSEL AND TAKE IT TO STATEN ISLAND ' SAID COAST GUARD SPOKESMAN JOE GIBSON, BUT WE COULN'T GET THE ANCHOR RAISED".. ONE OF THE DJ'S SAID MONDAY THE SHIP WAS BEING HELD IN PLACE IN THE ATLANTIC WITH A HUGE ANCHOR AND THE VESSEL DID NOT HAVE A WINCH STRONG ENOUGH TO RAISE IT. "IM FLABERGASTED" SAID RANDI STEELE, THE PIRATE STATIONS OPERATIONS MANAGER FROM HIS BROOKLYN APARTMENT" THE FCC NEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL POWER OF ARREST, THIS IS AN ILLEGAL ACTION ON THE HIGH SEAS," STEELE CALLED THE US AGREEMENT WITH THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE THE VESSEL "A VIOLATION OF OUR CONTRACT WITH THAT GOVERNMENT" ACCORDING TO THE FCC AND COAST GUARD THE US ASKED THE HOUNDRAN GOVERNMENT IF THEY COULD BOARD THE SHIP, AND THE HOUNDRANS SAID IT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM..GO AHEAD. THE IDENTITY OF THE THE 3ND

PERSON ARRESTED APPEARS TO BE R.J. SMITH A REPORTER FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE.

Msg#: 5743 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 16:02:36
From: LOU JOSEPHS
To: JONATHAN MARKS/ALL
Subj: RNI

READ THE NEWS STORIES AND WHAT NAME RINGS A BELL???? HOW ABOUT THE CE F RNI, ALLAN WEINER, OF PRESQUE ISLE MAINE.....?? REMEMBER THAT REMOTE PICKUP STATION THE FCC PUT OUT OF BIZ LAST YEAR??? HE ALSO OWNS OR DID A RADIO STATION IN MAINE....ONE AND THE SAME...

Msg#: 5746 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 16:55:47
From: RON JAMISON
To: ANDREW OBRIEN (Rcvd)
Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 5713 (RNI)

Don't think we can make that assumption. And, Kirk, add this to loggings, 1620 khz, Mon 7/27 2330-2359 utc, rock music f/70's mostly, dj Hank Hayes, same name/voice hrd on one of the NYC FM pirates once, fairly strong signal, sio 354, mentions of the address mentioned before in another report, that they're looking for more djs. Channel 9 had something about them in their 8 pm news, plus articles in the Post, Daily News, and get this, front page of the NY Times Monday.

Msg#: 5750 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 17:24:50
From: JONATHAN MARKS
To: ANYONE
Subj: RNI

CAN ANYONE HELP? We're running the radio New York international story in this week's Media Network program on Radio Netherlands. We do have a short cut of the station off air, but it could be better. Is there anyone prepared to feed a short extract over the phone (mike near the tape speaker would be ok?) ID needed (about ?15 seconds in total). We can pay for the extract used on air. If interested, leave a phone number where you can be reached around Wednesday aroun1145 UTC or later. We'll call you. We'll check this board at 0500 Wednesday for possible feedback Your help would be appreciated, and if you can come up with the goods, worth your while. Enough said. E-mail to Jonathan Marks.

ACE LOGGING FORM

Name _____

Receiver _____

City _____

State _____

Remember: All dates and times in GMT please. *0000 means the xmission began at 0000, 0000* means xmission ended at 0000. Please cut the logging strips, and additional details may be put on back.

Station _____

Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other

Date _____

Time (gmt) _____

SIO _____

Comments: _____

Name _____

Receiver _____

City _____

State _____

Remember: All dates and times in GMT please. *0000 means the xmission began at 0000, 0000* means xmission ended at 0000. Please cut the logging strips, and additional details may be put on back.

Station _____

Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other

Date _____

Time (gmt) _____

SIO _____

Comments: _____

Name _____

Receiver _____

City _____

State _____

Remember: All dates and times in GMT please. *0000 means the xmission began at 0000, 0000* means xmission ended at 0000. Please cut the logging strips, and additional details may be put on back.

Station _____

Frequency _____

Mode (circle one) AM USB LSB FM Other

Date _____

Time (gmt) _____

SIO _____

Comments: _____

Msg#: 5752 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 21:32:22
From: ANDREW OBRIEN
To: ALL
Subj: RNI BUST

DX Newline member Mike Pollack did get an interview with Randy Steele soon after the bust this afternoon. As you all know the station was boarded and the staff and a Village Voice reporter were handcuffed and carried away. Randy was very about the Honduran Govt giving the USA permission to board the ship. RNI claims that they were a legally registered Honduran ship and that their broadcasts were legal.

Msg#: 5755 *FREE RADIO*
07/28/87 21:57:20
From: BILL MARTIN
To: ALL
Subj: RNI

RNI hrd here in Delaware the eve before the Coast Guard boarded the Sara, with gud sigs on both 1620 and 6240 khz from 0230 -0310* on July 28, 1987. Annncr was Jim Nasium of WHOT fame. Obviously this is a big story, one which really goes back over 20 years. Yes, Weiner was involved in the Yonkers operation a year ago, as well as having a licensed station in Presque Isle, ME. He is committed to the concept of free radio and I hope he has some success this time around, tho I understand that he is facing fines of up to \$250,000 and 5 yrs. imprisonment if FCC get their way. Interestingly, as I write this, an unid op is on 1620 with old CSN&Y music...very 60's...0300 GMT 7-29-87. Will wait for an ID and leave info on this bbs if they do identify. Finally, is there any truth to the story that the NSC staff provided the funds for the Sara, hi hi. Best...Bill.

Also from the AP on 7/29/87....

A ship-based rock n roll radio station was seized Tuesday and two men were arrested after broadcasting from international waters for five days in defiance of the Federal Communications Commission. "It's not going to cause me to give up, but obviously this is a major setback", said Randi Steele, operations manager for the station, Radio Newyork International, which broadcast from a rusty fishing boat. "The basic message is that the FCC, the way it is acting, is in clear violation of the First Amendment", he said. Steele had said earlier that the ship, flying the Honduran flag, was not subject to FCC jurisdiction because it was one mile outside the three-mile territorial limit of the United States, off the south shore of Long Island. The Coast Guard and FCC officials boarded the vessel Tuesday and arrested three men, later freeing one who was a journalist, said assistant US attorney Mathew Fishbein. The two others were charged with operating a broadcast

station on board a ship outside national territories and conspiring to impede the functions of the FCC. The charges carry penalties of up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Those charged were held for arraignment in federal court in Brooklyn. Richard Smith, chief of the FCC's Field Operation Bureau said, "Here we have a deliberate attempt to test the authority of the commission. We've had few if any cases previously like this." An FCC statement said, "Unauthorized transmissions can cause interference and deprive the general public from receiving authorized licensed stations." Richard Smith said the 200 foot Honduran-registered fishing boat was boarded with the permission of the Honduran government. Ramiro Figueroa of the Honduran Embassy in Washington said the men might also face charges in Honduras because the ship was registered only for fishing. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Joe Gibson identified those arrested as station engineer Alan Wiener of Monticello, Maine, who has boasted in the past of his ability to uncover loopholes in broadcasting regulations, and disc jockey Ivan Rothstein of Brooklyn. R.J. Smith, a Village Voice reporter who boarded the vessel Monday night, was freed after his identification was confirmed, Fishbein said. Village Voice executive editor Kit Rachlis said Smith, a music columnist, shared the views of the 20 radio enthusiasts who started broadcasting Thursday as an alternative to what they considered stagnate rock n' roll formats on New York stations.

That ends this month's material, and the next few weeks should be interesting for further developments on this story. Next month Bill Martin's "Technicalities" column will cover the history of pirate radio in NYC, and he may be able to shed some more light on this latest entry of RNI into the scene. George Zeller and Andrew O'Brien attended ANARC this year, and a report on the convention will be forthcoming in the next issue. For those interested in the 1988 convention, the plans (unless they change) are for the meeting to be held in Huntington Beach, CA. The meeting location for 1989 is still unsettled at this time. Included with this issue (hopefully) in the centerfold is a copy of the standard logging form. Please pull the page out and use it for further copies. We NEED your input for the ACE.... the logging form makes my job much easier to handle, and it insures that all the data is present. However, if it is too much trouble, then don't give up on logging altogether, just jot all the pertinent details down on a postcard and mail it to me. This is the only way we can SHARE information with our members. If you liked the material from the BBS, let me know about that also. For those of you without computers, we can add these details into the bulletin when they occur.

Until next month, 73s and good listening.....

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by
George Zeller

2024 West 93rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102
home phone (216) 651-3366 ncc
work phone (216) 696-9077 ncc

CONTEST WINNER

The results are in, and it looks like A*C*E members were not exactly filled with excitement by the Clandestine Profile Contest. The unanimous choice of the judges for the contest winner is Ullis Fleming, since he sent in the only entry. Congratulations, Ullis! Ullis will receive his choice of the prizes in the contest. Since the response to this particular contest was underwhelming, we'll have to go back to the drawing board on projects like this one. Your editor welcomes suggestions from the A*C*E membership on ideas for projects that will be of more interest to club members.

RADIO FAROBUNDO MARTI AND RADIO VENCEREMOS

This column has written a lot lately about United States government funding for current right-wing clandestines in Central America and the Caribbean. These stations are easily audible throughout North America, and CIA links with many of them have been clearly documented in recent months. However, left-wing clandestines continue to pepper the airwaves of the region. For instance, Radio Venceremos continues to provide nightly entertainment on 49 and 90 meters. This FMLN station has been around for many years now, and its shortwave service continues to be audible nightly with its professionally produced attacks on the government of El Salvador. The station jumps around constantly in frequency to avoid rock music jammers, but it is still easy to hear. The 0100 transmission is a good bet throughout Eastern North America, somewhere in the vicinity of 3470v and 6555v KHz. The cat-and-mouse frequency games this station plays almost every night with its jammers are fascinating.

In Cleveland, we are fortunate to have a good alternative radio situation on our local licensed airwaves. College stations from Cleveland State University, Case-Western Reserve University, John Carroll University, and Baldwin-Wallace College provide a very diverse array of programming each week that is well produced for the most part. One weekly program, "The State of Things" on Cleveland State's WCSB-FM, is every bit as clever as the best pirate programming produced by stations such as the Voice of Laryngitis and the Voice of Bob.

Another WCSB weekly program is a relay of the FMLN English language service. This program is apparently Radio Venceremos' equivalent of the Voice of Nicaragua's English language shortwave programming. The weekly show comments on political developments in Central America with a definite left-wing slant. Last week's show had an excellent history of Radio Venceremos and Radio Farobundo Marti, including many taped and translated bits from the two stations' programming. The show claimed that the two stations' transmitters have been (and continue to be) mobile rigs located in El Salvador itself, not in Nicaragua.

This show also gloated about Radio Venceremos' most famous military victory, which might be called QTHscam or Transmittergate. The station lured El Salvador's military into an operation where they discovered and confiscated the Radio Venceremos "transmitter." However, this rig was actually a phony booby-trap. The captured phony transmitter exploded in a helicopter that was carrying it back to San Salvador, and one of the best commanders in the El Salvador armed forces was killed while a passenger in the destroyed helicopter. Radio Venceremos fired up their "real" rig within hours to gloat over this successful ruse. They still try to rub this one in, as is evidenced by last week's WCSB relay broadcast in Cleveland.

It might be worth your while to check out your local public radio or college radio station for programming of this type. Some Connecticut and Rocky Mountain FM stations carry Glenn Hauser's weekly "World of Radio" program, while other stations relay occasional shows from the BBC or Radio Moscow. The latter station's Vladimir Posner was on Cleveland local television stations twice this week. It may be that you can hear English language versions of the Central American clandestines on your local licensed FM station!

RADIO MAMBI

I have been plugging Glenn Hauser's Review of International Broadcasting and DX Listening Digest publications a lot in recent columns. Although Glenn has been compelled to raise his subscription rates over the last several months, both RIB and DXLD are still among the best sources of DX news in North America. The most recent RIB (#118) once again contains some important news on the anti-Castro clandestine front.

The lead article in RIB #118 is by Ron Schatz, the Florida DX-er who has become the world's premier expert on medium wave broadcasting in Cuba. Ron traces the two year history of Radio Marti, and comes up with some very significant conclusions on the actual effects of this station. To save space, I'll just summarize some of Ron's more important items that have relevance to clandestine stations:

- The National Security Council at the White House (under the now notorious stewardship of people like Poindexter and Colonel North) first proposed the anti-Castro Radio Marti concept in 1981.

- Radio Marti has not established significant credibility, either in Cuba or among the anti-Castro community in South Florida. The Cubans have dismissed Radio Marti, so much so that they are not jamming it. They also have not followed through on 1985 threats to retaliate against Radio Marti by cranking up superpowered Cuban MW transmitters that were to be beamed toward the United States.

- The quasi-clandestine WAQI, a licensed 50 KW MW station on 710 KHz in Miami, Florida, is being jammed and taken seriously by the Cubans. "Radio Mambi," the programming carried over WAQI, is sort of a Radio Swan (circa early 1960's) clandestine clone, with strident programming produced by the rigidly anti-Castro Cuban community of South Florida. In response, Castro has cranked up 350 KW worth of Cuban MW transmitters to effectively obliterate WAQI's signal with Cuban network programming. The radio war on 710 KHz is not exactly beneficial to other 50 KW MW stations, such as WOR in New York City.

So, even though WAQI is not a clandestine in a literal sense, since the FCC licenses it, it is nevertheless performing the function of a Radio Swan / Radio Americas clandestine operation. It is igniting almost all of the current Cuba vs. United States radio squabble, and is the only MW station currently suffering from regular jamming in the United States. Ron Schatz's opinion is that the FCC is bungling its MW relations with Cuba in a number of respects.

A final related point is that Radio Marti is having considerable labor problems within its staff. Many of its key journalistic employees have been fired or have quit, and employee morale is allegedly quite low. The discontent is caused by a lack of journalistic freedom by the Radio Marti staff, many of whom have complained of inept station management and political interference in the station's programming by right-wing factions in the Cuban-American community and in the US Information Agency. Your editor expects to see continuing controversy in the situations involving Cuban clandestines and quasi-clandestines over the next several months.

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HOBBY RADIO NEWS WITH EMPHASIS ON
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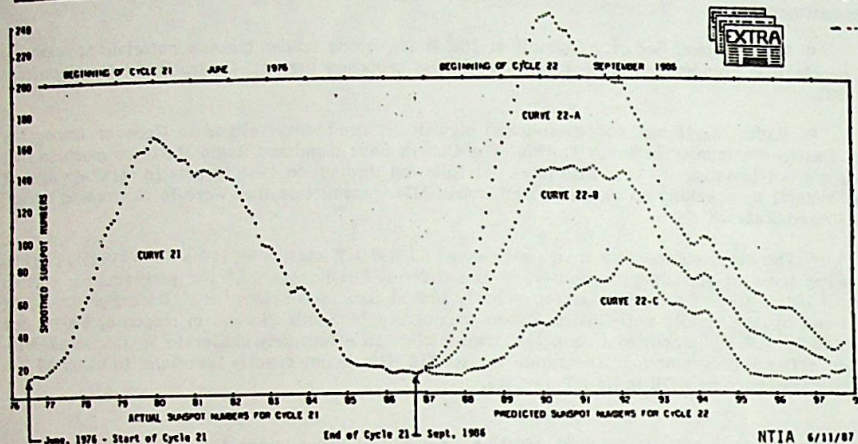
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IT'S OFFICIAL: SOLAR CYCLE 21 HAS ENDED!

According to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA), Solar Cycle 21 began in June, 1976, and ended in September, 1986. Now begins Cycle 22. With more data to evaluate than a few months ago when we reprinted the NTIA Sunspot Chart, (see V4N7 - Aug, 1986) we are able to determine that sunspot activity (and subsequently, DX) is definitely on the rise again. The NTIA computer predicts the peak of Cycle 22 to occur as early as March, 1990, or as late as March, 1992. Predictions based upon the available data are highly uncertain at this time, and quite a range of values are predicted. The median value of the computer prediction appears to suggest that the coming DX Cycle will be almost as intense as Cycle 21. Some of the data appear to suggest that the roof could blow off in early 1990 with sunspot activity higher than ever before. What does this mean?

No one knows for sure. But the available data strongly suggests a 2 in 3 chance of the coming DX period to be equal to the last cycle which peaked in late 1979 and early 1980. You oldtimers will recall the intense DX from 1977-1981. My own records show that the last DX cycle was firmly established by mid-1977, and that it lasted well into 1981-2 before declining to unpredictable intervals. Then 1981-2 was a virtual desert for 11-meter DX.

Now that Solar Cycle 22 is on the rise, I think we will see more and more periods of DX and very regular intervals of it during the remainder of 1987. The month of June was quite active for DX, especially in the North-South paths, although East-West openings were frequent and active, albeit short-lived. The West Coast had many openings to Australia, Hawaii, New Zealand, and other Pacific Islands. Asian stations were heard at times this past month. S. Calif. had a number of DX openings to the Colorado High Country.

For all intents and purposes, the government data together with my own records of the last fifteen years strongly points to another exciting DX interval coming up in the next few years. So this brings us up to the question of HOW to deal with it?

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Many operators live, eat and sleep for DX, while others hate it with a rage. Regardless of which "school" you hail from, there is virtually NOTHING any one can do about it, including the FCC. There are a few things you can do to prepare for it, one of which is to get your station working to its maximum potential. No matter if you hate DX or if you have a love-passion for it; if you take your radioing seriously, you will need a directional beam antenna! Those who enjoy the DX will find that a beam antenna will enhance their enjoyment of "the long stuff" with highly improved receive and transmit performance. But if you hate DX, you too, need a directional antenna, so that you can position it to REJECT the "skip" signals and go on with your local operations. Case in point: Just this month, quite a bit of DX rolled into Southern California, and I was so busy there wasn't such time for it, so I positioned my Moonraker 6 to reduce incoming DX signals from 10-20 dB over S-9 down to either complete silence or marginal signals of S-1 to S-2. A good beam antenna will do that, whereas a groundplane or other omnidirectional antenna gives you no choice or control over the conditions. WORDS TO THE WISE.

Check out the updated NTIA Smoothed Sunspot Chart above. Curve 21, on the left half of the chart, is a measure of actual sunspot activity from June, 1976 through December, 1986. You'll see three dotted curves on the right half of the chart. Curve 22-A is a "best case" prediction of what the sunspot activity will be. Curve 22-B is a median or average of the predictions, while Curve 22-C is a "worst case" prediction. We'll update this chart for you periodically. Meanwhile, you will note that measured data on the chart stops at the beginning of 1987, and the three prediction curves start there, BUT it is now July, 1987. Well, it's because NTIA needs 6-months to compile the data from all sources to peg a final number to each month. We won't have the firm numbers for July available until around December of this year. Given the "unusual" amount of DX of the last two months, it would appear that Curves A or B are dominant. Bear in mind that the chart is a plot of Smoothed Sunspot Numbers, and that DX doesn't always directly follow the sunspot function. Sometimes other factors besides sunspot activity contribute to DX conditions.

ENTJ V5N6

-2-

FCC Seizes WEE-TV's

Chicago IL ... As part of "a continuing nationwide investigation targeting miniature TV stations," the FCC recently announced the seizure of the so-called "WEE-TV Transmitter," from the Chicago-based company Kapco Ventures.

The transmitters, which were seized in late 1986, operate at "relatively low power on UHF-TV channels," the FCC said. The WEE-TV units can transmit video and audio signals between video recorders, cameras and other equipment.

According to FCC spokesperson Flora Stewart, such transmitters can potentially cause interference to licensed TV stations. Manufacture, marketing or use of the devices violates FCC rules and federal law, the Commission said. First offenses are punishable by fines up to \$100,000 and/or one year in jail.

On 18 November 1986, a US District Court Judge in Chicago issued a default judgment for \$2,000 against Kapco Ventures, according to Stewart. The judge also issued an injunction prohibiting any further sale or lease of the WEE-TV.

Kapco was also ordered to forfeit 348 video transmitters seized by US marshals from Kapco's headquarters in Elk Grove, Illinois, Stewart said.

The first complaint against WEE-TV came after its exhibit at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January 1986, Stewart said. In April 1986, the product was offered to selected Diners Club and Carte Blanche credit card holders by Direct Action Marketing, Inc.

Direct Action Marketing President William Gassman, in a letter to the FCC's Denver Field Operations Bureau in May 1986, said that in offering the device, his company "relied on the supplier's assurance that the product was in no way in violation of any commission regulations or requirements."

Gassman noted that, although Direct Action Marketing received orders in response to the mailing, "none has or will be filled and all customers who have ordered ... the product ... will be advised that their orders will be cancelled."

Repeated attempts by TVT to contact Kapco Ventures were unsuccessful, and at press time, the company's phone had been disconnected.

Stewart added that the Kapco equipment was destroyed 12 November 1986 in the presence of a US marshal.

For additional information, contact Flora Stewart at the FCC's Chicago District Office: 312-353-0195

Wireless microphones

In late December, the FCC ruled that wireless microphones can be used on all TV broadcast frequencies. According to comments filed in 1986, broadcasters said they generally supported the plan to allow the use of low-power auxiliary station (LPAS) devices, such as wireless microphones, on all TV channels, on a secondary, non-interfering basis.

The use of LPAS devices on TV Channels 7 to 13 was authorized in 1977. The latest ruling allows the devices to be used on Channels 2 to 6 and 14 to 69 (except Channel 37). It also established a 250 mW LPAS power limit in the UHF band. The 50 mW VHF limit was not changed.

In related news, in March, the FCC approved the use of non-licensed perimeter protection systems in the low VHF TV band, Channels 2 to 6. The security systems, which are composed of "leaky cables" that constantly emit a radio frequency field, are designed to detect the movement of objects or persons around facilities, the FCC said.

However, in order to minimize interference to broadcasters, the FCC said it would limit the marketing of such systems to industrial, commercial or business applications. It will also allow only "very low emission levels" and permit only buried cable installations. The Commission added that certification of the security systems will be required.

Pirate broadcasting for fun-not profit

As if the FCC didn't have enough problems along come pirates who raise the devil.

by Harry Helms, Jr.

During January of 1978, listeners in New York City were treated to the programming of two new broadcasters—WDBX and WGOR. Unlike other local AM stations, their programming was entirely free of commercials. Listeners were invited to call in for on-the-air discussions of anything, even X-rated topics. The two stations had odd-ball operating hours—generally restricted to after midnight on weekends—and were to be heard on unusual frequencies, 1620 and 1630 kHz.

You won't find WDBX and WGOR in any listing of American radio stations. The Federal Communications Commission doesn't know the locations or operators of these stations, either. For WDBX and WGOR are just two of the bumper crop of pirate radio broadcasters—highly

Word gets around . . .

A few days after your editor mentioned an interest in photos of a pirate station, the pictures and captions you see here arrived in ME's mail, anonymously, of course. The postmark was unreadable, but a cryptic return address had been scribbled on the envelope: "One Mile North of Nowhere." It's surely not as impressive as the Voice of America, but they do manage to make themselves heard, don't they?

illegal, unlicensed, hidden stations—which have popped up during 1978.

For several years there have been various bootleg radio operations in the United States, mainly run by young would-be radio personalities using salvaged radio gear. But, in 1978 there has been an unprecedented amount of activity, all widely heard and managing, so far, to escape being caught. Amazingly enough, some of them even QSL listener reports, making them super targets for alert DXers.

While there's nothing illegal about listening to a bootleg radio station, being on the business end of the microphone is another story. Both the author and *Modern Electronics* warn readers that operators of pirate stations face five years' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine if caught and convicted. And with the FCC's increasing use of sophisticated mobile enforcement units, the chances of being caught rise with each passing month.

WDBX and WGOR were so similar that many listeners and DXers frequently confused the two, although they operated on separate frequencies, WDBX around 1620 kHz and WGOR at about 1630 kHz. To add to the confusion, both

stations changed calls frequently in an apparent attempt to mislead the FCC. WDBX tended to use such call letters as WICE, WPOT, and WFSR while WGOR favored WFCC and WFAT. Operation was erratic, but both tended to be active on the weekend, from around 11:00 p.m. Eastern time until well after 2:00 a.m.

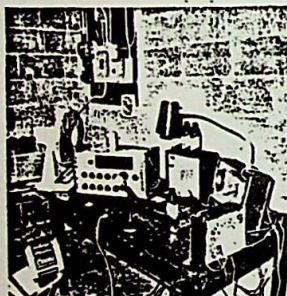
Both WDBX and WGOR worked out ways to get into so-called telephone loops, enabling them to take calls without giving out their own phone number. A typical loop is what you get into when you call a disconnected number. You are connected to a recording giving the new number. By clever manipulation of this system, the pirates were able to take calls and yet avoid having their station phone traced.

DXers who called the stations were told that both were in Brooklyn and used less than 100 watts of power. Despite such low power, the pirates were heard well throughout the eastern half of the United States and Canada. Your author heard them both several times at his listening post in South Carolina.

The pirates do not lack a sense of humor, twisted as some might think it. On the weekend of January 21-22, 1978, when most of the eastern United States



R.F. Gain at the microphone



VOV's studio



Transmitter, nicknamed "The Fuse"

B.B.I. (BROTHERHOOD OF BOOTLEGGER'S INC.)
 CHAMPIONS OF BOOTLEG BROADCASTING
 100 WATTS OF TOTAL INSANITY
 VOICE OF THE VOYAGER
 YOUR FREE RADIO BROADCASTER FROM THE MIGHTY NORTH!
 HARRY THANKS MUCH FOR TUNING IN & CALLING IN
 THIS IS THE STATION EVERYONE IS TRYING TO "CATCH"
 ON 5850 KC. *[Signature]* SUPPORT FREE RADIO *[Signature]*
 TOP MAN B&I TOP MAN VOV

The author received this QSL card from the Voice of the Voyager, one of the pirate radio stations discussed in this article.

was at a standstill due to heavy snows, WDBX changed its call to WICE in honor of the weather and WGOR became WFAT. Around this time WICE began putting out a strong second harmonic on 3261 kHz which was also widely heard.

With the coming of spring both WDBX and WGOR disappeared, though they had managed to avoid being caught by the FCC, but in June listeners again reported hearing a station identifying itself as WFAT, operating irregularly on

1630 kHz late weekend nights. Listeners should keep close watch on the 1600-1650 kHz segment during the next few winter months. My guess is one or both of these stations might return to the air.

The Voice of the Voyager

Few stations in the history of SWling have caused as big a sensation as *The Voice of the Voyager*. Operating on 5850 kHz, this remarkable pirate is apparently run by a group of SWLs!

The Voice of the Voyager was first reported by SWLs in March of 1978. It was heard Friday and Saturday nights, signing on at 0500 GMT. With the arrival of Daylight Savings Time later in the year, its schedule changed to Saturday nights only, signing on at 0400 GMT. Programs lasted for approximately one hour and consisted of rock music, DX tips and news of interest to an SWL. There were occasional phone-ins, apparently with a system similar to the one used by WDBX and WGOR.

At this moment (this is being written in mid-July), the station is still operating. The operators have openly announced that they plan to continue broadcasting at least through December, 1978.

Many listeners to the *Voyager* were surprised to hear DX tips read straight out of the bulletins of various SWL clubs. When SWLs reported reception of the station to their clubs, they found themselves receiving QSLs! In addition, some telephone callers have also received QSLs.

The station has never given out a mailing address. Its true location remains a mystery, although rough direction-finding efforts have placed it in northern Minnesota or the upper peninsula of Michigan. QSLs bear a Detroit

Frequency	Station
1620	WDBX, Brooklyn, New York. Rock music, phone-ins, active until March, 1978.
1630	WGOR, Brooklyn, New York. Rock music and phone-ins similar to WDBX. Still active in June, 1978.
3261	Second harmonic of WDBX, heard in January, 1978.
5850	<i>Voice of the Voyager</i> , believed Minnesota or Michigan. Rock music, phone-ins, DX and SWL features. Still active in mid-July, 1978.
6206	WINT, Radio 62, somewhere in the Midwest. Rock music and young announcers. Active mid-March, 1978.
7450	WMMR, Midwest Music Radio, believed to be in Indiana or Illinois. Beatles music, active May and June, 1978.
28625	Radio VOCAD, believed to be in the Chicago area. DX talk and music, active June, 1978.

postmark, but most SWLs do not believe the station is located there.

Editors of various DX club bulletins have received letters from the *Voice of the Voyager*, all written by one "A. Nony Mouse" a rather heavy-handed attempt at humor. The letter writer claims that the station uses a 100 watt transmitter. The antenna is supposed to be a half-wave dipole. The station power is modest, but obviously effective because reception throughout North America is generally fair to good. In June, the station was even heard in Newcastle, England by Ruddy Edewich.

The *Voice of the Voyager* uses a distinctive interval signal—ten notes on a guitar, followed by "Voice of the Voyager, champions of bootleg broadcasting," and the song "We Will Rock You/We Are the Champions," by the English rock-and-roll band Queen.

Voyager's channel is mostly clear but there are times when radioteletype interference is heard. My guess is that when the nation goes off Daylight Savings Time in October, the station will likely return to its Saturday night 0500 sign on—provided that the FCC hasn't caught up with them.

Other pirates have been heard during 1978, although none have achieved the notoriety of the previous three. A station

identifying itself as "WINT, Radio 62" was heard in mid-March and was believed operating from the Midwest on its frequency of 6206 kHz. Another Midwestern pirate was "WMMR, Midwest Music Radio," which was heard on 7450 kHz during May and June. Programming was the usual rock music favored by pirates and sign off was around 0200 GMT most evenings.

Still another pirate with apparent connections to the SWL community, is "Radio VOCAD," believed in the Chicago area. It was logged on 28625 kHz during June. This station made frequent mentions of the *Voice of the Voyager*, although it is not believed the two are connected. VOCAD also requested reception be reported to SWL club bulletins for QSLs.

The Future

Pirate broadcasters tend to have a short life span. Prolonged activity—as with WDBX, WGOR, and the *Voice of the Voyager*—is the exception, rather than the rule.

New pirates can and do pop up anytime without warning. Alert SWLs should keep a watch on 1600-1650, 6200-6300, and 700-7500 kHz where most have been reported in the past. It's impossible to predict whether activity will continue as its recent fast pace or return to the lower level of prior years. Whether or not it does, listening to bootleg broadcasters can provide some of the most exciting and unusual DXing available. It's quite a challenge to catch a pirate—before the FCC does!

Spectrum Opened to LPAS

Washington DC ... The FCC has ruled that wireless microphones can be used on all TV broadcast frequencies.

In a 29 December action, the Commission decided to increase the available spectrum for "low powered auxiliary stations" (LPAS), which include wireless mics and production equipment used in cueing and control communications, to include VHF-low band channels 2 to 6 (54 MHz to 72 MHz, and 76 MHz to 88 MHz) and UHF channels 14 to 69 (470 MHz to 806 MHz).

Channel 37 (608 MHz to 614 MHz) is exempted from the ruling because it is not allocated to broadcasting.

LPAS users have had access to the VHF high-band channels 7 to 13 (174 MHz to 216 MHz) since 1977. In comments filed with the FCC in 1986, broadcasters generally supported the FCC plan to allow LPAS devices to operate on all TV frequencies.

However, some broadcasters, including NBC, said they feared the rule could increase the possibility of interference to TV receivers connected to cable TV converters and VCRs, both of which are generally

tuned to low-band TV channels.

The ruling does not change the LPAS maximum power level of 50 mW for VHF channels, while it establishes a 250 mW level for operations on UHF channels.

The Commission also "removed the (channel) guard bands and taboo frequencies currently associated with the high (band) VHF TV channels," despite the NAB's argument that they protect against interference.

The NAB, like CBS, maintained that guard bands prevent LPAS devices from interfering with adjacent TV channels, while the taboo protections prevent a beat signal from being generated between a wireless microphone signal and the picture carrier of the upper adjacent TV channel.

The ruling also prohibits LPAS operations from frequencies 2.6 MHz to 3 MHz above the leading edge of VHF channels to "prevent intermodulation interference from occurring with the upper adjacent picture carrier."

The FCC docket number is MM 86-12. For more information contact Michael Lewis at 202-632-9660.

PANIC PRODUCTIONS

Hello

We are a Toronto-based organisation dedicated to the exposure and promotion of independent, experimental music. Our main activities are three-fold: (1) We stage concerts in Toronto for out-of-town performers and put them in touch with promoters in towns close by. (2) We are compiling a contact-list to be published in Spring 1988 and updated thereafter (similar to Alex Douglas' CLEM but based in experimental rather than electronic music). (3) We have regular meetings to organize cooperative mail-outs for Toronto musicians, publications, compilations, distributors and other organizations.

In this package you will find a collection of paper materials and possibly cassettes or records from different musicians, bands and other organisations in Toronto. They were mailed to you through Panic Productions' cooperative mail-out programme. Through this system, we hope to expose the work of local experimental musicians to a global audience, and do so in the least expensive way. The mail-out participants (whose tapes, records or services are represented here) are seeking international distribution and/or exposure for their work.

But first, this hodge-podge of materials you have received obviously requires some explanation. How did it reach you? A group of local musicians and other folk got together and assembled information on the addresses they were in contact with. These were compiled and examined by each person or group that was mailing materials. Each participant then decided which addresses would receive press kits or samples of their work. After this we gathered the materials from each participant and assembled single packages or envelopes to be mailed to each address. This is what you received. By following this process we have saved a lot of money for postage and we have tried to present a coherent picture of the local experimental scene.

The addresses that respond to this mailing will be included in the contact list (when it is published) and will receive future mailings as long as they remain active. In response to this mail-out, each participant hopes to receive an individual letter from you. This may not seem worthwhile to every recipient, but the participants would appreciate it and may offer reciprocal services.

In general, we are mailing to radio stations and show hosts (for airplay of our recordings), labels and compilations (for future recording projects), distributors and stores (for distribution of our recordings), periodicals and contact list publishers (for reviews and networking), promoters and performance spaces (for future tours), and people involved in video (for distribution or broadcast of our videos). We are also interested in promotion of your activities in Toronto, so we are likewise concerned that you send samples or information on your activities to the appropriate participants (store(s), distributor(s), radio station(s) and show host(s), etc.).

We are especially interested in contacts outside North America and Europe; to facilitate this we will try to obtain translations of our materials (like this letter) into other languages.

The following is a run-down of our more specific desires, depending on your activities: We are interested in receiving playlists from radio stations and video shows as well as descriptions of radio shows that play experimental music of any variety. On another sheet in this package you will find listed the various styles of music that we are interested in. This should help in describing the shows you know about or broadcast. Most of the bands sending material through this mailing would send their tapes to stations that seem supportive. So by informing us of your current activities, you help the bands decide which stations to send their tapes and records to.

Contact

Sri: P.O. Box 1031, Adelaide St. Station, Toronto, Canada M5C 2K4
Myke Dyer: P.O. Box 133, Station "V" Toronto, Canada M6R 3A4

Assoc. of Clandestine Radio Enthusiasts

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The Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts (A+C+E) is a club dedicated to the monitoring of unlicensed, unusual, unexplained, and unofficial radio broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts, covert communications, or Euro-pirates, The A+C+E publishes information each month which is of interest to you.

Pirates: A+C+E is famous for its thorough coverage of a subject that has been controversial in shortwave circles for years. Some clubs refuse to print pirate loggings because column editors don't like pirates. We want you to have information which helps you hear the interesting, often outspoken, and satirical programming these stations offer. Our pirate feature editor provides in depth interviews with operators of North American pirate stations.

Varied Response provides you with QSL information (and addresses) as well as offering some very honest and often controversial commentary, often invoking spirited responses from members.

Euro-Pirates: The European continent is a hotbed of pirate broadcasters. Although some are hobby operators, a great many stations are very professional, often commercial, operations. Our correspondent in England compiles Free Radio information on broadcasts throughout Europe.

Clandestine: Defined as unlicensed transmissions containing messages aimed at achieving social change. Each month, our clandestine columnists provide some insight into the political



views behind these broadcasts as well as telling you when and where they can be heard - throughout the world

Technical: Find out how to make the most of your equipment and its capabilities. From setting plotting to equipment modifications and all points between - you will find the most thorough coverage in the hobby here in The A+C+E.

Spy Numbers: Although most of the mystery surrounding these transmissions has been uncovered, there is considerable interest in this field. Read the latest news here regarding these stations.

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